

## **Planning Grants Given To Towns**

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**Home News Tribune Online**

CENTRAL JERSEY — **SMART FUTURE** Planning Grants have been awarded to Edison, Metuchen and Middlesex County, according to state Sen. Barbara Buono and assemblymen Patrick Diegnan and Peter Barnes III.

Edison was approved to receive a Smart Future award of \$35,000, Metuchen has been approved to receive \$50,000 and Middlesex County was approved to receive \$75,000.

Smart Future Planning grants are part of the state Department of Community Affairs' Smart Growth initiatives, which promotes smart growth planning by municipalities, counties and nonprofits throughout New Jersey. These grants are funded through department's Office of Smart Growth, which is leading an effort to promote sustainable development, protect the environment, preserve open space and revitalize New Jersey communities.

The Smart Future Planning grant program has been in existence for three years. The one of a kind program provided \$2,295,000 in Fiscal Year 2006 to municipalities, counties and nonprofit agencies to help plan for the future — one that balances development and redevelopment with the preservation of open space and environmental resources.